

CLAIMS

1. Use of a shaped article containing at least one skeleton-forming agent, proteins being excepted,
5 optionally one or more active substances and also optionally one or more auxiliary substances, for the purpose of external application.
- 10 2. Use according to Claim 1 for the purpose of external cosmetic application.
3. Use according to Claim 1 for the purpose of external therapeutic application.
- 15 4. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the skeleton-forming agent is at least one polysaccharide or a derivative thereof.
- 20 5. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the skeleton-forming agent is sodium alginate.
- 25 6. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the shaped article has a volume of 0.1 cm³ to 6 cm³ and exhibits the geometrical shape of a sphere.
- 30 7. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the shaped article is obtainable by freeze drying of a frozen solution or dispersion containing at least one skeleton-forming agent, proteins being excepted, optionally one or more active substances and also optionally one or more auxiliary substances.

8. Use according to Claim 7, wherein the shaped article is obtainable by means of a process that comprises the following steps:
 - (a) producing a solution or suspension that contains at least one biopolymer, optionally one or more physiologically effective active substances and also optionally one or more auxiliary substances,
 - (b) pouring the solution into a mould,
 - (c) freezing the solution in the mould and
 - (d) freeze drying the frozen solution, forming the shaped article.
9. Use of the shaped articles according to one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein external application of the shaped articles is undertaken directly by the consumer.
10. Use of the shaped articles according to one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein the shaped article is moistened with water or with an aqueous solution of one or more active substances and/or auxiliary substances, forming a gel, and is applied onto the skin or onto the hair.
11. A shaped article containing:
 - at least 10 wt.% of one or more skeleton-forming agents, the 1 per-cent-by-weight solution or suspension of which in water at 20 °C and at pH 6-8 has a viscosity of less than 2000 mPa.s,
 - 0.000001 wt.% up to 50 wt.% of one or more active substances,
 - 0.1 wt.% to 70 wt.% of one or more auxiliary substances, and also
 - up to 20 wt.% water,

with the proviso that the shaped article does not comprise any proteins by way of skeleton-forming agents.

- 5 12. Shaped article according to Claim 11, wherein the skeleton-forming agent is sodium alginate.
- 10 13. A shaped article, preferably according to Claim 11 or 12, containing at least one skeleton-forming agent, proteins being excepted, optionally one or more active substances and also optionally one or more auxiliary substances, for the purpose of external application, which has:
- 15 - a density from 0.01 g/cm^3 up to 0.8 g/cm^3 ,
 - a volume from 0.1 cm^3 to 6 cm^3 , and
 - a diameter (maximum spacing between two points in the shaped article) of at least 6 mm.
- 20 14. A combination including at least one shaped article as defined in one of Claims 1 to 13 and also at least one aqueous solution that contains one or more active substances and/or auxiliary substances, in matching spatial arrangement.